ABC NEWS - ELECTION NIGHT 1968 (11-5-1968)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY)

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From Tuesday November 5th, and Wednesday November 6th, 1968 ABC NEWS coverage of Election Night 1968 with Howard K. Smith, Frank Reynolds and Bill Lawrence . The first 34 minutes is complete with returns from the 7:00 P.M E.T hour, the final 70 minutes is more highlights from the rest of the coverage, starting around 1:00 A.M E.T, Richard Nixon is decarded the winner late morning @1:21:55 into the video.

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[Music] in the event that you've lost count this is the 45th election for president of the united states ever held in american history we want to remind you also that the polls are still open throughout most of this country only in ohio georgia illinois kentucky maryland mississippi south carolina vermont and virginia is it too late to vote in west virginia and in some parts of north carolina you still have 25 minutes so go and do your citizens duty there are decisions both interesting and deeply meaningful for all the nation to be made in california for example for the united states senate the ultra-conservative max rafferty against the ultra liberal alan cranston for u.s senator in florida the classic liberal leroy collins and the classic conservative ed gurney for us senator but in a way the most interesting uh the most important races aside from that for the presidency are the races usually considered the least interesting for the house of representatives because whatever the party of the next president if he does not have a legislature on his side he will go nowhere these are the results as of now with one percent of the presidential vote in nixon leads with about a third of a million votes humphrey with a little over a quarter of a million votes is second and wallace almost 150 000 votes third it would be uh here's the electoral vote the kind that really elect a president we have our projection has said that kentucky will go to nixon and kentucky has nine electoral votes and uh neither of the other candidates has any we want to tell you something about poll closing times because time is a real fourth dimension in elections it would be very useful if we all lived in the same time zone with everyone going to the polls at the same time it's been suggested by abc news among others that there be a 24-hour voting period for the whole nation which would begin and end at exactly the same time in all 50 states but that has not been agreed to so we

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but that has not been agreed to so we still face a long night with polls closing at various times all across the nation all the polls in these nine states closed at seven o'clock eastern time it's too late this year to vote in vermont maryland virginia south carolina georgia mississippi illinois ohio and kentucky in about one hour at eight o'clock eastern time all the polls will be closed in another 14 states and in the district of columbia by nine o'clock eastern time the polls will have closed in 40 of the 50 states including all of the east and south and most of the midwest after 10 o'clock we will permit ourselves 10 o'clock our time eastern time that is we permit ourselves to make projections in elections in all but six of the states those late poll closings include hawaii california idaho oregon washington and alaska alaska's vote gathering problems are unique four different time zones the possibility of substantial write-in vote and you will notice tonight that any projection our abc decision desk makes will be aired only after all the polls in that state have closed we'd like to call on political editor bill lawrence we've had one result in connection with kentucky bill what do you say well howard i think that the kentucky result though expected is not an unimportant one for richard nixon this is one of those border states four years ago it voted for lyndon johnson and it was one of the harbingers early harbingers of victory for him over barry goldwater it has nine electoral votes it has gone to mr nixon because the democrats split and split very badly nixon is a minority victor he gets the nine electoral votes because mr

humphrey and mr wallace between them cut up 55 of the rest of the vote so we put kentucky and nine electoral votes with nixon as as as forecast and this is the projection of our decision desk the first tonight now our final abc news survey

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now our final abc news survey taken before the voting started at all gave nixon an edge but it was a razor thinning the survey indicated enough electoral college votes in the next column for him to win but his doubtful margin of safety had dwindled so that if he lost only nine votes more he would not have the majority he needed with 270 electoral votes needed to win nixon according to our estimate has 278. hubert humphrey has 110 which is 160 short of election for humphrey george wallace trails far behind in our survey with 39 votes from the southern states of alabama georgia louisiana and mississippi the races were so close in 10 states that 111 votes had to be counted doubtful so even if vice president humphrey were to add all 111 of the doubtful votes to his column he still wouldn't have for an enough for election but if nixon lost more ground if for example he dropped a big statement like pennsylvania which has been doubtful for much of the campaign but which we now put in the nixon column he could drop well below the magic number of 2-7 then the election would be thrown into the house of representatives or it would be resolved in a deal with candidate george wallace in addition to pennsylvania we'll get an early indication of nixon's strength in ohio which has 26 votes our survey showed the state would likely go to nixon but humphrey's people are calling ohio the keystone of their campaign and they claim they're going to win it tonight the pollsters are divided harris gives the popular vote to humphrey by three points gallup gives nixon a single point lead and but they're talking only about the popular vote and tonight we decide this election in electoral votes so we brace ourselves for a close one and probably a long and a very

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and probably a long and a very interesting evening howard bill some of the polls have indicated that nixon will take kentucky as indeed we have so projected it and that wallace will come second and that humphrey will come third we would like to have a report from the southern states which include kentucky here's tom gerald howard the only senator in the south running unopposed is in louisiana and that is senator russell long of his 50 years he has spent 20 years in the u.s senate and in louisiana the republicans are not yet strong enough but they are certainly smart enough not to run a candidate against russell long he of course is the son of the famous former governor huey kingfishlong he is the only senator to have had both his mother and his father hold that senate seat before him so russell long of course will be returning to congress as the senate majority whip running down some of the boards in the south where we now have returns in kentucky of course we're projecting nixon the winner uh this comes as no major surprise perhaps the surprise here is wallace's lack of strength in this state he could have been hurt by his decision first to run former governor happy chandler with him on his ticket and then dropping chandler from the ticket at any rate wallace polling very poorly in the state that was expected to be much closer between wallace and nixon and a senate race in kentucky some interesting returns coming in here the republican judge cook is running well ahead of catherine peden uh in this race judge cook is a roman catholic miss peeden of course would have been the only woman senator from kentucky had she scored better the major issue here was the president's riot commission report miss peden a member of it endorsed it and judge marlo cook who is running well ahead of her criticized the warren commission report he has 53 percent of the vote with 55 percent of the precincts reporting in in kentucky and in the polls he was favored in that race some other races where we have figures in the south in the tennessee again while it's not scoring nearly as well as the bumper sticker polls indicated he would prior to the election

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indicated he would prior to the election wallace with 31 percent with 21 percent of the precincts reporting in and richard nixon doing very well in the state of tennessee drawing 42 percent of the vote humphrey running about as expected in this state for the wallace people down in alabama a bit more encouragement from their

home state the returns coming in now from the state of alabama we have some early returns and they are indicating that george wallace is polling about 74 percent of the early vote there in his home state some other senate races we'll be watching very closely tonight are in arkansas where veteran senator jay william fulbright is seeking his fifth term he of course is one of the most outspoken doves on the vietnam issue and he has his toughest opposition to date and the person of republican charles bernard bernard making his first race has never held office before he has not favored to win but he certainly is the toughest opposition fulbright has ever encountered and in the florida senatorial race we have a racial moderate a liberal former governor leroy collins who is running against congressman ed gurney an outspoken segregationist so howard the voters there will have a very clean cut choice in that senatorial race in florida tom the results are still early in the presidential race but a moment ago we showed the results after one percent of the precincts had counted their votes now it's two percent of the precincts having counted their votes and mr nixon maintains his lead with over 350 000 votes humphrey second with getting close to 300 000 votes wallace third with well over 150 000 votes it takes millions of miles of electronic circuits to bring you these returns tonight and computers and experts of all sorts technicians editors and journalists and the whole great machine is being sent into operation by the person who picks up a phone and phones us in the returns those phones in about three thousand key precincts in the nation are being manned by the organization which is probably the best one americans ever thought up outside of congress and

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ever thought up outside of congress and the presidency in the supreme court that is the league of women voters and we welcome them to our reporting team tonight far the smallest of the four regions we're reporting on tonight is the eastern united states however it packs a tremendous electoral wallop and frank reynolds is reporting on it frank how does it look well howard as you indicated the east does pack a tremendous wall up 142 electoral college votes but as of this moment most of the polls in the east are still open the only thing registered on the boards are very early returns from the state of vermont with only one percent in but nevertheless they can be considered probably a forerunner of things to come in vermont where mr nixon is leading 67 to 29 for vice president humphrey senator aiken in vermont is unopposed he is already elected as a matter of fact he was nominated by both parties the midwest is another area that we're going to be watching very closely tonight especially that state of ohio there are 157 electoral college votes in the midwest and we have returns now from the state of kansas where richard nixon is running ahead of uh hubert humphrey that is as expected and you'll know too in the senatorial contest in kansas that republican robert dole is running in front of democrat william robinson for senator frank carlson's old seat and dole seems likely to capture that seat however there is another evidence of split ticket voting here the democratic incumbent governor robert docking is leading republican richard harman and the democrat talking governor docking is expected to run ahead of his ticket but most of the pundits do not see his coattails as being big enough to provide a margin of victory for vice president humphrey in kansas the ohio uh contest the ohio turnout was very big today it's expected to exceed 4.2 million mr nixon at this moment has a lead 51 percent to 39 percent it's probably too early with only one percent to decide whether that wallace support shown there 10 percent is going to remain consistent throughout the

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to remain consistent throughout the evening there was a very heavy turnout in cleveland today in the ohio senatorial contest you see the republican state attorney general william saxby is running 55 to uh john j gilligan the former congressman's 45 there has been evidence of a big heavy turnout throughout much of the country and that's especially true in the midwest today chicago will cast one and a half million votes that's 88 percent and suburban cook county will cast more than 840 000 that's 92 percent extremely high turnouts it appears that mayor daley got out the vote in chicago democratic chicago but the suburbs which are usually helpful to the republicans also registered a very big vote in the uh suburban chicago area that's it for the east and midwest right now howard well frank the nobody has crossed the half million mark in the presidential contest yet nixon still leads substantially with 382 000 votes nearly 383 000 the democratic candidate hubert humphrey second 314 000 and george wallace a fairly respectable third in vote count 175 500. in terms of

percentages here's the way it looks so far nixon has 44 percent of the votes counted and humphrey 36 and george wallace just what the polls early predicted he would get before an alleged decline set in 20 percent i would like to call on one of our guest commentators mr william f buckley jr to answer a question perhaps give us a comment mr buckley do you think that george wallace is showing bodes a continuing swing to the right in this country in american politics or is it just a one-time phenomenon no i never have related george wallace to to the right for our reasons

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to the right for our reasons that i think are increasingly obvious uh his um he is primarily a reactor uh he reacts to a whole lot of frictions uh that america is very much seized over the friction of big government the friction of centralized control from far away places and the very fact that uh so many labor union members for instance who have traditionally voted democratic uh have shown such enthusiasm for him suggests that in fact he draws his strength not necessarily from the right uh not necessarily from the right but from uh simply unhappy elements of the american community which are looking for a quick solutions to complicated problems it seems to be under the circumstances that um to suggest that he is a conservative is pretty much like suggesting that uh huey long was a liberal and the uh the liberals during the new deal eight were very uncomfortable with that association as in my judgment conservative leaders are uncomfortable with any effort to impute uh the sort of rockers rhetoric of mr wallace to the i think noble concerns of the conservative movement that is why i think he has been uniformly repudiated by every known conservative leader in the united states and in my judgment will continue to be so whatever is going on with wallace it is not in my judgment a movement of the right or a conservative expressant that uh that sounds logical uh but wallace is the phenomenon of this year it's remarkable that a man from a region should get such a wide following nationally i'd like to ask mr vidal now uh mr vidal do you think that george wallace is an enduring phenomenon or a one-time thing i think that what he represents is enduring as long as there are going to be these frictions in our society

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be these frictions in our society particularly racial frictions the problems in the cities there will be those who react violently those who react to the 20th century those who react to a world they don't understand and whether wallace continues to carry the banner or not is a moot point i suspect he hopes to i think indeed that there will be a permanent party of the right wing though it may not be conservatism in its purest form nevertheless there is an element in conservatism which does react against the century in which we are unhappily located and i suspect that mr wallace and people who think like him will be with us for a very long time and will figure in subsequent elections thank you very much mr vidal but these early results are coming in mostly from the atlantic seaboard states the summer inland we've already projected kentucky won by nixon but most of these come from the atlantic seaboard states and they're worth watching because if humphrey doesn't come out of the eastern states with a very big vote he is going to be in trouble as the poll closing time rolls westward into the middle west then into the rocky mountains which are nixon country so watch connecticut also watch massachusetts for a negative index massachusetts should go democratic if there's any sign that massachusetts is not going democratic then you'll know that mr humphrey is in trouble those are the two states to watch in these early returns connecticut and massachusetts that's the national election 68 story at 25 minutes after the hour these figures is that from the first moment any figures at all appeared there just a couple of thousand they were in that same proportion nixon led by just about what he's leading by now and humphrey was second in about the same proportion and wallace was third let's see how the percentage votes look in percentage now nixon has 43 percent of all the votes counted so far humphrey has 35 percent and wallace 22

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humphrey has 35 percent and wallace 22 but as you know it's not these votes but electoral votes that elect a president and here are the only electoral votes we've been able to tabulate so far tonight nixon has nine in the state of kentucky humphrey still none and wallace nunn we would like to make a tour of our headquarters of the three main candidates first we go to the waldorf astoria hotel here in new york and keith [Music] that is the face of keith mcbee and his lips are moving but the sounds are not coming across from richard nixon's headquarters here in new york i think we're going to try to to get in touch with the humphrey headquarters i think lou chaffee is reporting at the humphrey headquarters can we try that now well howard for the time being uh humphrey headquarters is right here in waverly the humphrey home it's a cold blustery night with some snow falling i think you can see it the vice president spent a rather quiet day today after he voted early this morning following his return from los angeles uh even took his suit to be pressed to a local cleaners uh later tonight he will go down to election headquarters which is the lemington hotel in downtown minneapolis and their uh very optimistic humphrey workers are planning all kinds of victory celebrations uh with uh 90 piece orchestras little combos pretty girls all kinds of alcoholic beverages and soft drinks and all the rest of the things that go into the victory celebrations in any event the vice president and mrs humphrey are still at home they're getting dressed now and they're going to have a private dinner with some old friends here in the waverly area of waverly lake before heading downtown to a suite in the lemington hotel

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the lemington hotel where they'll watch the results of uh this election uh i think now we'll go down to peter jennings who's with the wallace campaign in montgomery alabama hello this is lou this is the garrett auditorium in montgomery where later tonight we can expect thousands of people to come and join george wallace and curtis lemay in what wallace will surely interpret as a victory celebration win lose or as is possible draw wallace was very confident when we talked this morning that much of the nation has turned southern in outlook okay and that this was only the halfway point his movement would be nurtured and pushed on from here this morning the governor drove 80 miles to his boyhood home of clayton alabama to vote he was warmly greeted by the townspeople there tonight he's just across the road from us in a motel watching the returns on national television general lemay will join him when he flies back from california after having voted there the moon here is rather an unjudgeable one at the moment there simply aren't enough people there was a great cheer just a few moments ago when one of the networks gave mississippi to george wallace as was expected there's no particular mode here it's just calm the one concession to optimism would have to be the cases of champagne that have been carefully tucked away no matter what this is peter jennings at montgomery alabama wallace headquarters we'd like to tell you something about how we get the figures you see on all our boards at one time in the pioneer days of gathering election results the raw vote that's what we're adding up here the competition was keen and everybody got a different set of figures not because each person each network was wrong but because they were strong in different areas cbs would report one total abc and other cbs a different one nbc another the united press figures from new hampshire would come in faster than the associated press ones and the ap figures from arizona would come in faster than the ups well some time ago the five news gathering organizations of the nation decided at least to have the raw vote in

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decided at least to have the raw vote in common so they wouldn't confuse the public they formed the news election service tonight the news election service about this time melvin newsom of collinsville virginia will walk or he will run to a telephone near the voting place at horse pasture precinct in henry county virginia and when the operator has placed his election call and he hears nes go ahead please melvin newsom will report the votes for the horse pasture precinct there will be 125 000 such calls tonight these calls accounting for millions of votes will go first to seven regional collection cities and then by data phone to a sophisticated computer system in new york city the massive vote collection effort started at noon today and will continue until the flow of raw votes ends tomorrow the figures the nes computers send over teletype circuits are received in identical form by abc by nbc by cbs and by the associated press and by the united press and that's the way we get these figures we'll all get the same figures but we may do different things with them i'd

like to ask bill lawrence for a comment on the way things have shaped up so far in these early results tonight bill howard we're still working with that one state we've been able to call but it is an interesting one indeed kentucky you take a look at the board itself where the raw vote is up we've got 76 percent of the vote in and that's certainly enough to say that this is not alone a projection of victory but a definite victory for richard nixon in kentucky now unlike some of the earlier forecasts however mr humphrey has run a very strong second and governor wallace has been rather a poor third some of these predictions that you heard before election time was that wallace would run second and indeed might tussle nixon for the state but that isn't the way it's turned out at all but nixon is a minority winner and the

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but nixon is a minority winner and the victory profile shows that he has not carried a majority of any segment of the population this however was a state that went for president johnson four years ago he carried it with 64 percent of the vote as compared with mr nixon's 44 percent tonight now in that breakdown of vote how did nixon achieve his victory well he got 39 percent of the urban vote which is certainly not a surprise but indeed it's not as high as it might be he did get 35 percent of the negro vote which is of course less than a majority but it must be a good deal more than mr nixon god of the negro vote in comparison with president johnson uh president uh kennedy when nixon and kennedy clash head on back in 1960. of the catholic vote 42 percent has gone to nixon and that certainly wasn't true in 1960 45 of the low-income vote to nixon 44 of labor votes for nixon 49 of the protestants for nixon 46 of the average income for nixon and the non-labor that is all other groups but labor 47 for nixon it all adds up as i say to a minority victory for the vice president for the former vice president but it gives him nine electoral votes and nobody else can make that claim at this moment bill i'd like to call your attention to the presidential board nixon has crossed the half million mark the first milestone nixon leads with 600 000 votes humphrey has not yet crossed the half million 486 000 wallace still running a very strong third with three hundred and eight thousand most of these votes as i said come from the eastern states and let's have a

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the eastern states and let's have a report on the east from frank reynolds frank well howard the biggest returns we have on the eastern border rather from the midwestern board actually is in the state of ohio where the polls have been closed for some time now with three percent of the vote in you see that mr nixon has 50 of the uh vote to 40 for mr humphrey there's some interesting facts about this vote thus far one third of this vote is coming from the columbus area now in that breaking that down vice president humphrey is getting 58 percent of that vote and mr nixon 33 percent in 1960 nixon carried franklin county which is where columbus is located by a wide margin but again these are still quite early uh mr mr nixon as we said has got 50 percent in 60 he carried ohio with a little more than 53 percent there are some uh we've got to mention too governor wallace who is showing an 11 strength here in an area that really is democratic if one-third of these votes are coming from columbus and columbus is expected to go democratic that is the city of columbus and mr wallace apparently is taking some votes away from vice president humphrey and he's showing that solid 11 we have some very interesting senatorial races to cover for you tonight in ohio you'll note that the attorney general william saxby the republican candidate is running at 54 that's four percent higher than mr nixon it's possible therefore that mr saxby uh could lead the ticket but this again is with only three percent of the votes in other senatorial races to be uh interested in and to watch very closely tonight will be in connecticut where the incumbent democrat abribikoff is facing a challenge from republican edwin may we're expecting about a 90 turnout here about a 90 turnout in pennsylvania incumbent senator joseph clark should have really not too much difficulty beating his republican opponent richard schweiker but pennsylvania is rated a toss-up in the presidential sweepstakes clark is

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the presidential sweepstakes clark is said to be running quite strong in all the pre-election polls the illinois senatorial race we have no returns as yet but uh practically nobody is anticipating anything except a big victory for senator dirksen the minority leader the oklahoma senate we have no returns as yet on the race for uh between senator mike monroney bidding for a third term he's facing a very strong challenge from henry bellman a former governor and we also have on our boards now some figures from kansas showing that mr nixon is running at 56 percent with three percent of the votes in he's getting 56 percent and that of course is to be expected too howard frank without derogating from the importance of any of the states the seven major states are the ones to watch nobody i think in recent times has ever won an election without carrying five of those seven so we'll watch that in the vote count in the presidential election now the democratic candidate hubert humphrey has crossed the half million mark nixon still leads 633 000 humphrey second 513 000 george wallace still a tenacious third with 300 000 i would like to call on our guest commentators once more and ask them another question and beg them for a comment i would like to call on gore vidal first of all mr vidal did the campaigning of either of the candidates change anybody's mind in this campaign do you think it's hard to tell about campaigning it uh usually has a negative effect uh people tend to vote for what they don't like i must say that both humphrey and nixon were very well known figures on the scene and i don't suppose really in the campaign we learned anything new about them nixon didn't blow up or become petulant hubert humphrey once or twice was able to give a short speech but by and large i don't think that

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but by and large i don't think that either man particularly scored uh i suspect that the one interesting element of the campaign were the attempts of the radical left to break up meetings uh in some ways a virtuous thing to do but i think the result was was to be enormously helpful to the men whose meetings they were trying to break up whether it was wallace or humphrey or nixon so all in all i think it was probably a great waste of time i'd like to see only two week perhaps campaigns instead of this interminable four months well i would like to ask that question now of mr buckley do you think that the campaigning of the candidates not let's leave wallace out humphrey and nixon do you think they changed anybody's mind from august and september when they had conventions i don't think so much uh that people's minds were changed by the behavior or the remarks of mr nixon or mr humphrey so much as by the passage of time there is no question but that during the past two months uh mr nixon's strength decreased relative to mr humphries but the reasons for that are i think less that mr nixon made any egregious errors or less that the country was all of a sudden fascinated by mr humphrey rather it seemed to me that the organizational strength of the democratic party gradually began to assert itself and then after the trauma of chicago was more or less assimilated people began asking themselves the ancient questions uh with which party am i likely uh to uh to make a material progress is it wise to change back to the republicans thoughts of the depression the rest of it had an enormous impression that rather than the candidates themselves thank you very much mr buckley the wallace vote that we've had so far is not surprising because most of those votes come from his base in uh in the south we'll see how he does when he gets

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south we'll see how he does when he gets outside the south but let's have a report on the whole southern picture now tom gerald howard in the south let's go back to the state of florida because we're getting in some new and fresh returns in the state of florida and perhaps a trend is beginning to develop in this state in the presidential race richard nixon has now taken the lead with 38 percent of the vote with this with seven percent of the precincts reporting in florida in the florida senatorial former two-term governor leroy collins is trailing conservative uh segregationist ed gurney the congressman uh gurney has a very comfortable lead at the moment and he probably will hold it because the northern part of the state is expected to go strongly for him this in florida with five percent of the votes reporting in leroy collins perhaps was hurt in that race because there was a campaign photograph showing him during the selma demonstrations marching along with the late dr martin luther king and his opponents attempted to use this against him he said he was there for principal and he stood on what he uh went there for in north carolina in the presidential race another very interesting state and these are late figures with three percent of the precincts reporting in now back to you

howard tom abc's projection desk has a projection it deals with kentucky just as our past one did our projection indicates and i repeat the term projection that marlo cook will win the united states senate seat in kentucky now held by thruston morton but being vacated by senator morton marlo cook the republican will be the winner over miss katherine peden the democratic candidate for whom mrs lady bird johnson went to kentucky to campaign a cook's victory is a one one a first he is a roman catholic and in the fundamentalist rural regions of kentucky he had a hard time it was because of that his religion was used against him this is miss peeden is a former commissioner of commerce in the state she had the job of getting industries to

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she had the job of getting industries to come into kentucky and in that job she traveled the length and breadth of kentucky and became very famous and built up a great strength in the republican in the democratic primary in kentucky she faced 12 male opponents and she defeated them all in a very well organized campaign but in this general election she suffered from what democrats have suffered from everywhere divided councils and lack of support and uh so apparently if this projection is accurate and we believe it is judge marlo cook the republican candidate will win the united states senate seat in kentucky over miss katherine peden and that's the national election 68 story at 50 minutes after the hour republicans i would like to call on our guest commentators once again i believe mr william buckley comes first this time mr buckley i wonder if i could ask you what effect do you think the bombing halt had on this election coming a week before the election uh it seems to me likely that the bombing halt being called when it was called tended to confirm a lot of people a lot of people's suspicion that the president of the united states is or rather can be highly cynical in his deployment of political affairs uh here is how i've heard a lot of people reason it namely that although they can be sure we can all be sure that mr johnson would not under any circumstances have jeopardized an opportunity for peace still a coming as it did this overture this apparent overture from the north vietnamese three days before an american presidential election it could not have been made without specific reference to that election and that under the circumstances to release that news or at this particular moment uh inevitably gave the impression that it was news calculated to lead the american people along and this they don't like mr buckley it's uh i think nixon dissented from that did he not did he not say that he thought this was not a

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not say that he thought this was not a political move by the president i think he did and i think that he was almost bound to do so i'm not bound to do so since i'm not running for president yet under the circumstances uh the the presumptions are always in favor of somebody doing the right thing but in fact those presumptions are strained by this kind of timing well i would like to put the same question now to mr vidal mr vidal do you think the bombing halt coming a week before the elections had any effect on the way the polls have gone on the way the election will go tonight i don't think very much of course mr nixon is often bound to say things that he does not mean we have been through this before i would i suspect johnson was certainly hopeful about the election but he did it so very late he did it so very crudely he did it so very obviously that it has worked out to have been i don't think of much use to hubert humphrey or to the democratic party and uh there are those who feel that uh johnson perhaps may have deep down inside a greater affinity to richard nixon than he does to hubert humphrey who might possibly repudiate uh his war policy also i think finally we must remember one interesting statistic which is that 62 percent of the american people we live in the age of polls we worship pollsters 62 percent of the american people did not want a bombing halt so therefore what johnson did in effect was something which is not popular and obviously of no use to his candidate i don't know whether humphrey or nixon lost in those comments but certainly lyndon johnson did he was considered cynical by mr buckley in his political move and it was not of much use anyhow said mr vidal hubert humphrey maintains his new one lead in the presidential race with about

00:38:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2282s)

lead in the presidential race with about a quarter of the nation's precincts having reported in humphrey has eight million eight and a quarter million votes to nixon's 8 million 161 000 wallace 3 million and about 500 000 and now in percentages let's see how that vote is shared nixon has a shade under 41 humphrey has a shade over 41 percent and george wallace still 18 perhaps we can take a look at the electoral votes the kind that really elect presidents nixon still leads and electoral votes but uh humphrey has come closer to him than he's been tonight humphrey now has 90 with those big states that have just been projected as his and wallace is third with 39 he hasn't advanced much he possibly he won't advance a great deal more we would like to continue the conversation we were having with gore vidal our guest commentator i wonder if mr vidal could come in and and answer that question again that i had put to him the virtues the positive strengths of the two main candidates humphrey and nixon [Music] well howard before we were so rudely interrupted by senator muskie in maine and the rather thrilling to me news from pennsylvania i was going to say that in a business-minded country nixon has enormous virtue is that he's in perfect harmony with people who have money and who have paid for his campaigns who paid for 20 million dollars for this campaign i think there's a remark once made by senator robert taft who said that the chase manhattan bank controls the republican party he said that rather literally but there's certain amount of truth in it that to a degree the banks call the tune of the republican party and as a result and this may be a strength for mr nixon the banks have decided that the vietnam war is bad for business so i think in a way republican presidents have much less freedom in foreign affairs than democratic

[00:40:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2400s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2400s)

in foreign affairs than democratic presidents so i have a suspicion that uh richard nixon should he be elected president uh tonight or tomorrow morning uh might wind up the war rather rapidly that to me is good idea as for hubert humphrey i think he's a man of good heart i think domestically he is first-rate he understands the problem of the poor he understands the problem of the black he's a good mayor he's done much creative work he certainly talks too much he cries too much he didn't look very good for four years as lyndon johnson's captive but at the same time who knows who could survive that extraordinary experience so in any case i think that he is a strong man domestically and a virtuous man and hopefully he will be able to answer revolutionary times anyway we were talking about can presidents be nice men i think hubert humphrey is a nice man i'm sure he's sorry not to meet that qualification of failing to be nice as you can see from that board with nearly half of the precincts of the nation reporting in humphrey has increased his lead he now has 16 million 125 000 votes to nixon's 15 million 365 000 votes it is a lead getting on towards 800 000 votes a big one george wallace has 6 million 256 000 far the biggest vote any third party candidate has ever won in the history of the united states let's look at how this splits up in percentages in percentages humphrey has 41 percent for the first time nixon has declined to 39 wallace has declined still another point to 16 now let's look at the electoral vote the one that elects presidents remember it takes 270 to be elected president humphrey leads with 180 nixon next with 160 wallace 45 but listen to this lower mathematics there are only 153

[00:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2521s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2521s)

lower mathematics there are only 153 electoral votes left to share out nixon has to get 110 of that 153 to win humphrey has to get 90 of that 153 to win and if neither gets those figures then it goes to the house of representatives where it will have to be decided by a vote of the delegations to the house and they will probably we can guess have a hard time and take a long time in deciding meanwhile the senate determines who will be the vice president the senate with an overwhelming democratic majority will doubtless elect edmund muskey and so on inauguration day next year we may see edmund muskey the acting president of the united states waiting for the house of representatives to decide this vote but i'm dreaming i'm way out ahead of it let's go now to nixon headquarters here in new york in the waldorf astoria hotel with ted koppel reporting [Music] this wild party atmosphere in the background can be somewhat misleading on the surface everything is as you see it down there wild enthusiasm and optimism it may still be too early to say that the nixon camp is breaking out in a cold sweat but there are certainly a few moist palms around now occasionally cheers go up from this crowd down there as nixon victories are projected in certain states but the cheers have kind of a hollow sound because they refer to states where for the most part humphrey was

never considered to have a chance i think it's fair to say that the nixon people are as worried now at this particular time as they have been at any time during the campaign this is ted koppel at nixon headquarters ride in the state of idaho we told you a while ago there are only 153 votes left to share electoral votes to choose a president with and nixon has to get 110 of that 153 if he's to win without this going to the house of

00:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2640s)

without this going to the house of representatives if humphrey can get 90 of those he will win without it going to the house if neither makes that figure out of the very few remaining 153 remaining then this election will have to be decided for the first time since 1825 by the house of representatives each state's delegation in the house voting as one um that is going to be a very interesting prospect but i wager it will hasten the reform of the electoral process the electoral college never made any sense and it became defunct and troublesome almost as soon as it was introduced in 1800 when there was a tie for president and it had to go into the house it took 36 ballots for thomas jefferson to win over aaron burr one more projection the state of utah its four electoral votes will go to richard nixon that too is not a surprise we're moving now and i think people who think that humphrey may win this and better watch out for this we're moving now into nixon country we're moving through the middle west we haven't seen ohio and illinois yet they're very powerful states with a lot of wallop and electoral vote then we move out to the far west california the second biggest electoral vote state in the union and then all the i interrupt myself we're down in montgomery alabama george wallace is running mate curtis lemay they're standing on the podium there george wallace his children [Music] wallace is not going to win as he predicted i don't think many people thought he would but he certainly has accumulated the biggest vote by far of any third party candidate in american history and the he may succeed in throwing the presidential race into the house of representatives due to the votes he has subtracted in this case probably subtracted them from richard nixon there's the big confederate flag i think that is the that's in montgomery alabama and that is

00:46:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2762s)

that's in montgomery alabama and that is the garrett coliseum in montgomery alabama we have a reporter there great peter jennings we want to try and establish contact with peter peter can you hear us yes i can yes i can hear you howard what's going on well howard george wallace as you can easily see has just arrived with his running mate curtis lemay mrs lemay and george wallace's mother what you're seeing the picture at this very moment is a very empty auditorium here at the guard auditorium it holds about 15 000 people not nearly that many turned up tonight to see george wallace uh the young attractive lady beside the governor is unidentifiable but he is easily identifiable curtis lemay his running mate who came back here this evening from california after voting and there of course is probably one of the most characteristic gestures that the governor has had throughout this campaign that small jerky salute dick smith the great whomper now we're going to hear some of the ceremonies for a very small crowd here in montgomery i'm proud to welcome to our state a great and distinguished american general curtis lemay i wasn't referring to you this crowd here has just been whipped into enthusiasm by the playing of dixie by sam smith and the official party band that has traveled with the crowd general amazing from the return very quiet the presidential team of wallace lemay

00:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=2880s)

that is mrs lemay and on behalf of the people of alabama i want to express our appreciation to you for joining with governor wallace to stand up for america general lemay general lemay who in the final days has appeared an unhappy and sometimes unwilling candidate for the vice presidency who's been alone much more of the time than he's been a part of the and crowd i think it's a little bit early to talk about the results of the election right yes governor wallace is better qualified than i am to discuss that anyway it was just 32 days ago that i made the decision to join governor wallace and his crusade it only took me about three days to convince myself that i've made the right decision [Music] i've spent a long time over two months and trying to

analyze the pros and cons of taking this step and i knew what the odds were of winning and this had nothing to do with the final decision that i made i believe that before that any balloting took place that i'd accomplished most of my goals certainly we've made a tremendous impact on the country

00:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3000s)

on the country that's going to be felt for a long time [Music] if you add the popular vote of the american independent party or the republican party the last figures i saw came nearly 6 to 60 percent of the american people who were dissatisfied with the trend toward socialism that we've encountered in the past eight years [Music] now before the end of the evening a matter of fact i think we'll be in tomorrow before we really know it may turn out the american independent party is more important than we ever thought it would be [Music] mrs lemay and i want to thank all of you for the wonderful support we've received we certainly have enjoyed meeting many many wonderful people during the campaign and we both thank you that is a a kind of usual brief statement that generally has to make at the beginning of most every campaign speech that george wallace makes share this evening with us

00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3120s)

general lemay as far as we know will be definitely unemployed after this campaign he lost his job on the west coast the only rally that governor wallace had in the state of alabama and from the election results it must have been a most successful rally governor i had the privilege of presenting him to you and to all of those others assembled at that time and tonight it's a great honor and privilege for me to again present to a group of devoted and loyal followers who have assisted and aided in this movement that began in alabama in 1963 the man who has spearheaded it who's been the voice of it who with your help has sustained it across this country our friend the former governor of alabama the honorable george c wallace incidentally the man who introduced governor wallace is albert brewer the present governor alabama [Applause] this will be the first time in this campaign first time in most of this campaign that governor wallace will not have spoken from behind a bulletproof podium and he you see more of him tonight over the top of his podium than you usually see evan [Applause] governor wallace's youngest child he is moving over to one side of the stage who's now just disappeared to the

00:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3240s)

stage who's now just disappeared to the other i want to i want to thank you governor brewer for not only being with us tonight but the support you've given to our movement which is part of your movement out of the people of alabama and as general may said a moment ago the election of course is not over and i think everybody understands that present time i again want to thank general lemay for running on our ticket a man who has served our country able and well a great patriot a man as i said last night on television or he's on the sunday show winston churchill had said was largely responsible for peace in the world within the last two decades and so i'm very grateful a man who helped defeat the noxus and the fascists in world war ii and helped to save at least a million lives in that conflict by bringing an end to it empire of japan so gentlemen mr may thank you for being with us i want to present to you briefly taking up too much of your time but i do want to say that we have with us tonight former governor georgia who contributed so much to our effort because in the beginning when we had to comply with the provisions of a number of state statutes it was necessary to have a vice presidential running mate at that time and so he agreed to stand in and therefore has contributed as much as any individual to our movement so governor griffin of georgia thank you for being with us tonight and i want to thank you

00:56:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3362s)

tonight and i want to thank you our projection desk makes these projections frank church the incumbent senator will regain his senate seat in idaho or hold on to it warren magnussen the incumbent democratic senator in the state of washington will hold on to his seat in the united states senate and the republican senator wallace bennett of utah will hold on to his seat in the house in the senate another first for negroes

tonight democrat louis stokes brother of cleveland mayor carl stokes has been elected to congress from ohio's 21st district it is a predominantly negro district his opponent was a negro and this will be ohio's first negro congressman in the state of arkansas arkansas's votes are going to the conservative george wallace but william fulbright the chairman of the senate foreign relations committee is winning or has won his senate seat back again and our reporter charles murphy is with him in the marion hotel in little rock let's go down and listen to them i am sitting with a senator at his headquarters in the marion hotel here in little rock he has won big tonight he is not only leading his party's ticket in the state he is running well ahead of governor winthrop rockefeller the popular republican governor now senator i know you expected to win this election but did you expect to win it this big well i i did expect to win it i was pretty confident after all i've been the senator here for 24 years and i have great confidence in the discrimination and judgment of the people of arkansas i really wasn't very worried about it i i got a little distressed at the nature of some of the issues that my opponent brought up but nevertheless i've never been in any doubt about the outcome uh you think these issues backfired or i don't think they helped you mean

[00:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3481s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3481s)

don't think they helped you mean perhaps i'd better explain that i i think you questioned the use of some of your statements out of context oh yes he went back 25 years and take a sentence out of a speech you know and try to make it mean the opposite of what it really really did mean at the time and question your patriotism that's right that's right i don't think the people uh appreciate that i think it did not help you senator how important was the vietnam war and your differences with president johnson in this election well i think it's important i think there's been quite a change in the general attitude in the country and certainly in this state about the war and i feel that many people are believe now that i was directed in my judgment march smith is in new york senator and he wants to ask you a question i'll have to hold this earpiece up you're here senator fulbright first of all congratulations and second i would like to ask you how you estimate the next congress will be the last congress gutted the fulbright scholarships do you think you'll get them restored i can't quite hear it [Music] howard he can't quite hear you if you would give me your question i'll repeat it too i said the last congress gutted the fulbright scholarships does he have hope that they'll be restored by the next congress he'll be a member of i he said that the last congress gutted the fulbright scholarships was that it howard yes and you he wonders if they will be restored for the next congress yes they cut it uh a little over 30 percent but a very much deeper cut in the countries in western europe this is a result i think of the impact of the deficit in our in our budget and particularly the war in vietnam i see if the war is over i think uh this could be restored if the war is not over and we continue with 80 or more billion dollars from for defense then i don't think this or our domestic programs will be restored

[01:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3600s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3600s)

our domestic programs will be restored senator back to my question on your differences with the president in the war are you saying that that your views which were once i think a minority view in this state are now accepted by the majority i believe so and the polls show that and i think that's true but maybe that's oversimplified i think the recent developments in the in the peace talks and also the the feeling that the war is dragging to a kind of a pupil has been favorable to me but by and large this is not the main issue of war you ask if it's important i think it's important but much more important to that in this election are the domestic concerns in arkansas on which i spent most of my time now are you saying also that there is a movement nationally toward your thinking on the war and that possibly this would account for senator or vice president humphreys [Music] this is what i mean well of course mr humphrey hasn't won but he is yeah well he has one i don't know the will he's doing better than in most of the polls and people expected him well mr nixon appears to have lost a goal and opportunity and that was to have won this thing out right what do you think uh what went wrong with nixon well really i'm a democrat and i i'm not never was supporting mr nixon and uh i'm biased on this i don't think mr nixon was the best candidate the republicans could have put up or do you think he should have debated do you think he would have done better had he debated i don't know because i'm not sure he's that good a debater his the last debate he had in the presidential race did not help him so i

don't know that it would help him now this he was generally believed that his debate was jack kennedy did him a great deal of harm in that race so this is why i think he didn't debate this time well senator as we've said the election

01:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3721s)

well senator as we've said the election nationally is not over and we don't know when but mr humphrey does have a slight lead now suppose he does win this election do you think that will give him if not a mandate at least an impetus to settle this war more quickly i do and i i think if if he wins with you know a clear majority and if if the house is both houses are democratic i think he'll be in a position to do so thank you very much we're talking with senator jay william fulbright of arkansas who has turned back his republican challenger here in this state today charles murphy reporting from the marion hotel in little rock that was a state that has split three ways its electoral vote has gone to george wallace its governorship has gone to a republican and its senate seat to a democrat you can't be more uh democratic than that we're going now to our two guest commentators and i think mr buckley is first and i would like to ask him to what do you attribute wallace's surprising vote tonight the biggest vote any third party has ever won in american history how about that mr buckley well what is uh to begin with surprising about mr wallace's vote is that it is so much uh less spectacular than what was widely predicted it seems as you pointed out a moment ago to be crawling down a little bit uh every minute or so but let's say that he ends up with 10 12 13 14 15 of the vote uh nevertheless that is a substantial vote and uh there are reasons for supposing that number one he got it uh in part because he has a base in the deep south uh in parts of the country that do very much fear that the negro will end up dominating a regime which up until that moment has been securely white at least since the end of the reconstruction also he is in favor of law and order and i have no doubt that his

01:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3840s)

that his a direct approach to this particular problem widened his appeal far beyond the reaches of racism a third of course he is uh and stands against some of the unnecessary complications uh with which people in effect urge on america or its general impotence to cope with any problem and finally and by no means least there is a sense in which there is an anti-establishment flavor in the wallace vote which is the direct complement of the vote for senator mccarthy mr vidal i would like to ask you for your assessment of this very large vote even though it's not as big as the polls originally said this huge vote for a third-party candidate who was a regional man who is not an outstanding orator uh who does not have a specific program how do you account for this huge vote well i don't think the vote is as large as many people anticipated i thought it would be larger i've always felt that we must never underestimate the essential bigotry of the white majority in the united states it is easily aroused easily frightened i think recent developments people are afraid for their jobs in the northern cities they're afraid for property values their houses that the negros will move in and their property values will be affected i think that there are great many really very real things that these people fear and they're easily preyed upon by a demagogue who just says no no no to everything we all have those days uh in which uh the negative is the only true and honest answer and i think finally it is a protest what astonishes me about it is that so many people who are voting for wallace said they might have voted for bobby kennedy or senator mccarthy and your mind reels how on earth they can connect the two but the problem is that they don't necessarily connect the two what they're saying is that they wanted let us use that dreadful word which we

01:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=3961s)

let us use that dreadful word which we haven't heard tonight charismatic leader they want somebody who will simply say we think this is a pretty lousy setup in the united states we don't like the two major parties we don't like the republicans we don't like the democrats we don't like humphrey we don't like nixon let's get something done even if it's to say no and i think that no is a legitimate political position no matter how wickedly humanly it's based and i think noah's going to be with us for a long time well mr vidal the voters of pennsylvania have apparently said no to senator joe clark the liberal democrat who holds the seat in the

senate from pennsylvania now we project that uh i think his name is richard schweiker four-term congressman has been elected in pennsylvania over joe clark now here is barry morris goldwater because of all of you people and the way you've worked the dedicated way in which you've kept at this uh has enabled not just me to realize a victory but the greatest republican victory that the party has ever had in the territory or the state we are winning elections that frankly even the contestants didn't think they could win [Applause] i want to thank all of you uh not just for myself but i know i speak for all the candidates with whom i've worked and who worked with me for the dedicated way in which you've applied yourself to this task of good government in our state i want to thank my wife peggy who unfortunately hasn't been able to be

01:08:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4080s)

who unfortunately hasn't been able to be with me through this campaign but now that she's hearing again i don't know whether i'm well off or not i want to thank all of my children uh especially those three who came back from california they're running out of water over there it's just wonderful and i'm so pleased to see that mr nixon is continuing to pick up and i'm looking forward to going to washington in january to serve once again in the senate to serve in the interests of freedom in the interest of our constitution and the way of life that you and i love so again my thanks to all of you i regret that four years have sort of pooped me out and peggy and i are going to take off for about a 30-day fishing trip and we aren't even going to tell you where we're going but we're going we're going where the fish are so thanks to all of you and i within a few weeks i'll be back and i'll be seeing you all over this state as i've been doing all of my life thank you [Applause] goldwater's campaign slogan has been senator barry goldwater doesn't that sound great and apparently enough people thought it did here now is the vice president i would like to go to the heart of one of those key states illinois to chicago to the democratic headquarters in chicago and sam donaldson for a report howard one of the reasons we don't have any hard information in illinois now is because of the old slow count devotees is a political process going back i think one of the famous cases was

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4200s)

back i think one of the famous cases was in franklin roosevelt's day when he was running for the governorship of new york and flynn was doing a slow count then know that a slow count is holding out ballot boxes and holding out counts so that you wait to see what the other fellows come up with here in illinois both sides are accusing the other and apparently with some justification of a slow count the cook county people mayor daley's organization complained that downstate illinois is not reporting that's the nixon strength supposedly the republican area but cook county isn't exempt there are places here in chicago that haven't reported fully and a few minutes ago a local judge sent 40 deputies out into suburban cook county to try to get some action out there and to get the votes in you see both sides are waiting for the other fellow to announce his vote total i wouldn't uh conjecture certainly on the air as to why they do this but at the moment both sides are very angry in illinois they can't get the other two to declare himself anytime when you expect to hear the results so to know what the tide is so strongly it can't be reversed well here at daley headquarters the mayor daley of course has not been seen he arrived here at the sherman house about 11 this morning and to my knowledge he hasn't stuck his head out the door of the suite where he is watching very carefully what's coming in since then but people have come to and fro i've talked to a few of them they seem to indicate that the daily organization is not optimistic about the statewide chances of the vice president of william g clark the senatorial candidate who's running against everett dirksen and of sam shapiro although they hold out more hope for sam shapiro the present governor against richard ogilvy than they do for william g clark or for hubert humphrey now they're not making a concession and i'm not saying they've given me any hard figures they haven't this is simply the mood that's been transported outside the doors by daily stalwarts as they come to and fro

01:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4320s)

daily stalwarts as they come to and fro well sam that's a key state we'll probably be back to see you after a while the state of illinois the state of ohio and then the the state of california if you add those votes from wisconsin where nixon is expected to lead this could be a very tight nixon win million it's 18 000 for gregory like to ask our guest commentators a question if i think mr vidal is first this time it is said that someone asked a humphrey aide what humphrey needed to win and he said four more weeks do you think that if this campaign lasted four more weeks humphrey would win i wonder if the country could stand another four weeks of this particular campaign he seemed to show signs of picking up there's still signs he might conceivably win this thing tonight it's possible that the bombing halt might have been more helpful to him and to his cause than many people thought i think perhaps at the last minute those myself among them who followed the senator mccarthy line and rather withdrew from the democratic party that there was a great sense of well gosh we really don't want nixon do we and the other alternatives didn't seem to be too appetizing so in a sense there has been a sudden turning toward him and a sudden suspicion of nixon which is perennial but in this case the hollowness of the campaign that he has conducted i sometimes wonder myself i ran into somebody who said he was going to vote for cleaver an old democrat but he said the thought that mark lane would be one heartbeat from the presidency made it impossible well i would like to ask mr buckley now that same hypothetical question do you think that if this campaign had gone on a week or

01:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4441s)

if this campaign had gone on a week or two or three more that humphrey would be a sure winner at the rate he seemed to be picking up support oh no no i don't think so at all it seems to me that if mr humphrey had continued in his present course and in his present a frenzy for another four or five weeks he would have ended by so confusing his constituency that it would have been very difficult to situate him he has taken already so many positions for instance on ending the bombing that it takes a computer to keep track of them and i do think that after another few weeks he might very well have persuaded a critical number of people that he was so much carried away by what i persistent calling his desire to endear himself with everybody that he would all of a sudden have ended up meeting himself coming around the corner and causing a considerable national confusion so i think that he probably reached his high point about now thank you mr buckley we have a projection from the state of south dakota which is going republican the liberal democratic senator george mcgovern will win the election and will retain his seat in the united states senate we want to that's the scoreboard there as it stands now but we expect and it's been a prediction all along i think throughout the campaign that mcgovern was a stronger campaigner than the former governor of the state archie gubrud whose name you saw there and mcgovern was expected to win let's review the states now which each candidate has carried richard nixon has collected his 261 electoral votes in 29 states near florida indiana

01:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4560s)

in 29 states near florida indiana kentucky new hampshire colorado tennessee virginia new mexico kansas vermont north dakota south carolina arizona iowa wyoming nebraska delaware oklahoma north carolina nevada oregon idaho utah south dakota montana new jersey wisconsin ohio and california the 193 electoral votes for hubert humphrey in 13 states and the district of columbia and here they are countries carried connecticut the district of columbia maine massachusetts michigan rhode island west virginia minnesota pennsylvania missouri new york texas hawaii and washington state george wallace has carried five states with 45 electoral votes mississippi alabama georgia louisiana and arkansas the three states not yet officially in either the nixon or the humphrey column are illinois with 26 electoral votes and leaning towards nixon maryland with 10 electoral votes leaning towards humphrey and alaska with three leaning towards nixon the abc decision desk has just projected that gravel mike gravel the democratic candidate for the united states senate will be the winner of that senate race in alaska despite a write-in vote from senator greening who occupies the thief now he defeats elmer rasmussen the mayor of anchorage the so the reputed to be the wealthiest man in alaska in a fairly tight race so gravel is the senator a democratic senator replaces a democratic senator we want to go to washington now into the republican headquarters and bob clark well

howard some republicans in washington are waking up with headaches this morning despite the fact that they're apparently going to put their man in the white house the biggest headache of all probably belongs to jerry ford the

01:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4681s)

belongs to jerry ford the house republican leader who hungered mightily to become speaker of the house the latest projection would indicate that the republicans are just going are going to pick up something less than 10 at the moment they have a net gain of about three house seats jerry ford had hoped to gain at least 30 which would have made him speaker there is a rather classic irony in this and that jerry ford and and one of his principal lieutenants in the house the chairman of the house republican conference mel laird are probably the two most pragmatic republicans in washington they had worked as hard as they could behind the scenes and uh they're still un told stories about this at miami to weld together the nixon and rockefeller wings of the party more than anything else they wanted a winning ticket and they held out hope to the end that somehow they could get governor rockefeller on that ticket they didn't of course succeed and one thing we might speculate about this morning is is uh how much effect it might have had if you had had one of the big vote pullers in the number two spot of the republican ticket whether it had been nelson rockefeller john lindsay someone who might have given richard nixon just enough ex extra octane to carry the house republicans to victory also this is uh the republicans in the house will survive uh they'll get along they have their man in the white house but there'll be about 20 votes at least short of enough to rule the white house they'll have to go on uh dickering making deals with the southern democrats they're good at this they've done it for a long time and they'll get by with it but they're not going to be able to control the house jerry ford isn't going to be speaker of the house and that's why he has that big headache

01:20:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4801s)

and that's why he has that big headache this morning thank you bob this is uh we're back here in in new york uh bob does anybody indicate when they expect to hear from illinois the final result they ought to know powerful in that state we're in a standby situation down here they're obviously waiting for word uh for words from headquarters and headquarters as of now is uh the next in command post in new york city you're not going to get another beep out of anybody down here until richard nixon decides whether it's time to issue a victory statement from new york city well your sharp years of doubtless notice that we haven't had any beeps down here richard nixon went to bed early and hasn't been seen or heard from but we'll go on following these results ourselves we're putting key precincts into computers and we hope that eventually the result will be sure enough to to announce and to go ahead and decide the election one way or the other and uh we'll be in touch with you when we do let's uh take a look at the boards now and see how the election count stands uh that was bob clark who lingered with us we're always glad to have him with us for a long long time but let's see how the popular vote looks on the board now with 88 percent of the precincts then i'm inclined to think they're more than that there now because nixon's gone over the 28 million mark 28 million and 73 000 votes he leads by uh by about more than a quarter of a million votes george wallace third was nearly nine million okay abc's decision desk announces this

01:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=4920s)

abc's decision desk announces this projection nixon will win the 26 electoral votes of illinois and with that will win election to the presidency of the united states with 287 electoral votes i'll repeat that according to our decisions desk our projection is that nixon will win the 26 electoral votes of illinois the votes he said lost in the election in 1960 have wanted for him in 1968 and uh that puts him over the top it takes 270 electoral votes to win he will get 287 with that the figures that we're talking about are well i'll uh i'll have to get some words on how those figures are drawn up these are almost illegible but we can call on bill lawrence now for an explanation of this well howard the the election has gone as we have expected it to for at least the last hour and a half mr nixon has carried the state of illinois he now has 287 electoral votes i'm sure he will also carry alaska that his final total will be 290. i think in the final analysis that mr humphrey will carry maryland

with its 10 but we won't know that perhaps until thursday but the ball game is over our congratulations to vice president-elect to president-elect nixon and we have a profile of his victory in illinois the state that decided it all it was a finely shaded contest but nixon won it and won it by a very narrow margin and again thanks to the help of third party candidate george wallace nixon has carried 67 percent of the rural vote that's down state that's where the republicans always cast their big vote 51 percent of the suburban vote went for nixon 46 of the catholic vote for nixon the average income voter 50 of them were for nixon the urban voter it says 51 for nixon now

01:24:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5041s)

the urban voter it says 51 for nixon now the negro vote though reached to perhaps an all-time low for any republican candidate only four percent those of low income had eight percent labor as a whole gave nixon 37 of its vote the protestants gave him 50 and he got 33 percent of the jewish vote and at the same time we are also advised that senator dirksen has carried illinois over attorney general clark and so the majority leader returns back to washington he's a welcome figure there he's we and the press corps there we don't we don't play party politics we we like have dirksen and we're glad to have him back there's again no reflection on on mr clark who ran against him and gave him a tight race but ev is one of the delight ev dirksen's one of the delightful people of washington and you find him on a very large number of bipartisan issues standing four square over the administration especially on foreign policy affairs so as far as i'm concerned howard the big story is that nixon has won it he's won it with i guess 290 electoral votes where he credited him for sure with 287 needed only 270 to win the vice president has 193 now it will perhaps go to 203 if he carries maryland as i expect and wallace stands with 45 and his five states wallace has failed in his gamble to force this contest into the house of representatives where he could make his deal beforehand or he could make his deal as he said on issues and answers last sunday on a variety of subjects with the kind of people who thought like he did in other words somebody who would adopt his kind of

01:26:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5161s)

somebody who would adopt his kind of platform his kind of non-enforcement of civil rights laws his kind of appointment of different kinds of supreme court justices than we now have at the same time we have a victory profile for for next for dirksen's victory dirksen carried 73 percent of the rural vote 38 percent of the urban votes and dirksen got only nine percent of the negro vote that's a surprise labor went 42 percent for dirksen and the protestant vote was 57 for dirksen a low-income voter dickson got only 10 percent the catholic vote he got 52 and suburban illinoisians voted 59 for the majori for the minority leader everett mckinley dirksen will be back in washington for another six year term so howard it's been a long long night but at long last we have a conclusion and richard nixon is the president-elect of these united states nixon has with the illinois projection in his favor 287 electoral votes presumably he'll get the three from alaska it's doubtful he'll get the 10 from maryland those the only ones remaining and that elects him president of the united states in 1960 he he lost illinois by a mere 8 000 votes and he felt that illinois had cost him election in 1960. now in 1968 it is the same state which has given him the election uh with 280 total of 287 electoral votes at 8 15 eastern time abc's decisions desk announced the projection that nixon nixon would win illinois and give him the necessary votes to go over the top in this presidential election which so far as we're concerned is now settled and that's the national election 68 story at 25 minutes after

01:28:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5281s)

election 68 story at 25 minutes after the hour the election has just been decided but here's how the popular vote looks with 88 percent of all the precincts reporting in nixon leads not by a great deal 28 million and 73 000 votes for nixon the republican candidate hubert humphrey the democratic candidate second with 27 million seven hundred and ten thousand and george wallace third with almost nine million votes now in the percentage of the votes let's have a look at that board so close we can't make a distinction without a decimal point forty three percent of the votes for each nixon and humphrey with wallace 14 wallace doing a little worse than the polls said he would in the electoral vote the one that counts it takes 270 votes to become

president nixon has 287 just uh won them about 10 minutes ago humphrey second with 193 wallace third with 45. now bill lawrence uh this is uh there aren't many uh precedents for a man coming back like this and winning the presidency after losing it and spending eight years in hibernation are they well indeed howard in the history of the two-party system no two-time candidate as uh two [Music] candidate who was lost once and been re-nominated has ever been elected to the presidency this is uh you know uh william jennings bryan tried it three times never one adley stevenson tried it twice didn't win thomas e dewey tried it twice didn't win richard nixon has tried it twice and won the second time we speculate and this is pure speculation not a projection that humphrey leading in maryland will get those 10 election votes and that'll put him over 200 but nixon has 287 and that's how

01:30:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5402s)

200 but nixon has 287 and that's how many it takes so then alaska presumably will go to nixon that will give nixon 290 to humphreys 200. abc's coverage of election 68 will continue after this message thirteen and a half hours after we began this report on elections we go into the final half hour of election 68 and the main news of course is that richard nixon has been elected president of the united states the votes of illinois put him over the top giving him 287 electoral votes it takes 270 to win here is how the popular vote over the nation looks at this moment 88 percent of the precincts have reported in with complete results a richard nixon leads not by a great deal but he leads in popular vote 28 million to hubert humphries 27 million seven hundred and ten thousand and george wallace with the biggest vote any third party candidate ever got in american history has nearly 9 million votes let's see how the electoral vote looks that's the one that elects a president in the electoral college nixon now has with illinois votes 287 votes it takes 270 to be elected humphrey is second with 193 we expect he'll end up with a little over 200 and george wallace has 45 electoral votes in the other races in the nation the governorships we will have summaries of those in just a moment but i want to tell you about our projection on illinois for nixon which settled this race was based on a combination of raw votes and the projection of key precincts the figures you've seen on our boards are raw votes the absolute figures these are the votes which is supplied to us and the other networks by nes the news election service a vote gathering organization created and underwritten by the three networks and the two wire services to meet the questions of why and how abc news two presidential elections ago began to

01:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5520s)

two presidential elections ago began to organize a system that could meet the need the system is a combination of wise men and tested computers together they form what we sometimes call our brain trust into the computers at the itt computer center in paramus new jersey we've programmed the vote profile of some 3 000 precincts located in all the 50 states which give us a clue to how the whole state will go the league of women voters staffed each of these key precincts so that the raw vote totals were transmitted accurately and rapidly to our computers these computers already had in their memory banks the voting personalities of each of these precincts when these computers compared the established pattern with the voting our decision desks had the factors on which to project a winner that's how it was done so richard nixon on that basis has been projected as the winner of the presidency the race to the white house in 1968 i would like to call on bill lawrence our political editor for a comment well howard i think the nixon victory went just about as expected in the final weeks anyway it was apparent for those who studied the electoral college closely that he could win it but vice president humphrey just couldn't put enough votes together to do it as much as i talked to leading democrats and as we surveyed all the electoral vote possibilities never at any time in our discussions could they find any more than say about 220 electoral votes for mr humphrey and that was giving him all the breaks that they could think of at that time nixon on the other hand had the electoral vote moxie he did suffer i think some decline in popular vote in the last few weeks of the campaign he in his own words the famous phrase he made up himself he peaked too soon but i don't think that the spread was anything like the 10 million votes that george gallup says it was between october and tonight's election on the other hand

01:34:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5643s)

and tonight's election on the other hand lou harris was much closer he said that nixon never trailed by more than five or six points gallop had nixon uh i had by as much as 14 or 15 points at the peak of the nixon string humphrey did come on strong at the end they elect the popular vote as we have shown you time after time tonight is still virtually a dead heat they are not divisible by exact percentage points they both have about 43 percent and as we expected george wallace did not run as strong as the poster said he would earlier he got only 14 of the vote instead of 20 as i had suggested tonight there were a few surprises humphrey was slow to start but when he started it looked like he was going to carry all of those big industrial states with the potent electoral power he swept through michigan through pennsylvania through new york and texas but it was only when he got to ohio illinois and california that he was stopped short of victory he he winds up finally with about 203 electoral votes i'm assuming he carries maryland or he has a lead now and there remain 33 000 absentee ballots to be counted we assume that mr nixon will carry alaska this will give him a final total of 290 electoral votes and anything over 270 is pure gravy anyway he needed 270 to win and that's what he got plus 20. so that's the way the election has gone tonight nixon had a few surprises for him he ran very strong in some of these southern states he denied them to george wallace he carried florida for example in tennessee

01:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5760s)

tennessee which we had considered doubtful and indeed he in those states it was humphrey who ran second not wallace especially in florida where the wallace threat just simply didn't materialize but it was enough to give nixon a victory over a nixon over humphrey in a traditional democratic state at the same time the republicans have picked up perhaps a net of four or five seats in the senate they have a net gain as as of this time and my reading of only three seats in the house some of the people will be welcoming back to washington will be a people like barry goldwater after a four-year absence in his defeat by lyndon johnson a satisfactory victory a very satisfying victory for barry coming back from arizona to replace the aged carl hayden who finally retired so hard it's been a long but it's been an interesting evening and it's one of great satisfaction to to have been taking part in it with this great abc team that we assembled and my congratulations our congratulations to president-elect nixon howard bill the the main result is on the board behind me nixon has won the presidency of the united states with 287 electoral votes 14 hours after the vote count began we'd like to go over the other results there's a certain sameness about it small gains by the republicans for the governorships the republicans on that board you can see the present uh holders of state houses at present they're called old there in fact they're still present 24 democratic governors 26 republican governors well you can see on the line above the republicans have gained a net gain of four state houses in this election in the united states senate the uh well it's that the the present composition of the senate is shown by

01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=5880s)

composition of the senate is shown by that lower line 63 democrats 37 republicans and the upper line i don't believe is quite complete 58 democrats and 41 republicans in fact i believe the the the republicans have a net gain of four places in the united states senate as well four governorships and four places in the senate and the house of representatives according to our account well there's the old house the present house 247 democrats 188 republicans and it hasn't changed drastically it looks as though the democrats have lost five and the republicans have gained one well that's not what my total show they show a net gain of four seats in the house of representatives for the republican party a net gain of four governorships for the republicans a net gain of four places in the united states senate now for a report from the south and the western states here is tom gerald howard summarizing here are some of the key races tonight some that had some suspense to them and some that were surprises as the night and morning drew along that big suspense of course in the west was in california where its 40 electoral votes would go it took us eight and a half hours before we had a projection on richard nixon and our projection is holding true now with 93 percent of the precincts reporting in richard nixon has 48 percent of the vote and he's expected to widen that gap just a little more as some of his strength in the southern part of the state begins to be tallied in the state of washington we had a slight surprise not a great deal but this state was expected with its nine electoral votes to go to uh

richard nixon but it is uh humphrey state one of the few in the far west along with hawaii that he has taken and uh a race i think everyone is probably interested in that's that senate race in arizona for carl hayden's seat barry goldwater has claimed that for the republicans mr conservative will be returning uh to washington and he of course plans to be the ranking newly elected senator in washington when he returns there uh after the first of the year in oregon

01:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=6001s)

uh after the first of the year in oregon we still have a race that's too close to call robert packwood a dynamic young campaigner going against the old war horse wayne morris who at 68 was challenged for his age by packwood who was 36 morris was expected to be reelected and there's a good chance he still will because some of the key precincts that hold his votes still have not been tallied so that race still too close to call in the oregon senate race and new mexico and the gubernatorial race also now we have 95 of the precincts in and incumbent governor david cargo has slipped off to a slight lead he'll need to hold it to beat the challenge there of fabian chavez in texas and the presidential race we had a little bit of a surprise tonight and that this race was expected to go to richard nixon that president johnson along with a coalition of democrats liberals and conservatives in the state managed the last minute to swing texas with its 25 electoral votes to hubert humphrey and early in the evening that was one of his key states in west virginia in the race for governor of that state the democrats had the state house but conservative republican congressman arch moore has now apparently won this race he has 96 of the precincts and we have projected him the winner he has 51 percent of the vote this too was nip and tuck all night and moore apparently was successful in his decision to leave congress and seek the gubernatorial position here so those are the key races in the south and in the west as we've watched them tonight the wallace campaign of course in the south failed to materialize outside of that of a regional candidate carrying the five deep south states that he was expected to carry and without the bargaining power that he was hoping to get by being the spoiler in this election i suspect that it will take much of the win out of the sales of the wallace campaign okay howard that's it for now thank you tom the election is over but the story of election 68 is not after we leave our

01:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=6121s)

of election 68 is not after we leave our studio one here our abc news staff will continue to cover this story we'll interrupt our regularly scheduled programming today for any newsworthy event in connection with these elections we will most probably be hearing from mr nixon and from vice president humphrey we'll be back with more on election 68 after this message hey argue the sentry statue that's right sentry insurance i knew i knew you i've seen you talk on tv sentry insurance made order for you huh how about that that's me all right yeah hey lady look the statue of the talks say something why didn't you say something didn't have anything particular to say well you could have said made to order you mean how century insurance gives you just the right protection for your home your family your business yeah that's it sentry made to order for you keep talking listen to him talk kid uh on tv you know ah he won't talk hi sentry man hi sonny century insurance made to order for you well nixon has the presidency by the vote you see behind me i would like to make one closing comment the kind of country he inherits the candidates and a lot of people in america have tried to talk us into believing we're very sick yet uh if this is sickness who needs help a couple of weeks ago sick americans completely swept the olympics until it began to seem as though the star-spangled banner had become the olympic anthem a week ago we learned that americans swept all the nobel prizes for science at this moment our personal incomes the highest in the world are rising unemployment has not been this low since

01:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XGfiJGZyzY&t=6240s)

unemployment has not been this low since 1945 we have some inflation but it's the least inflation of any western industrial country far more negroes vote today than ever in history before and from the highest places in the nation for the first election ever negroes watch from the supreme court the cabinet of the president and negroes earn appreciably higher median incomes than ever before in all history altogether

we're not perfect but mr nixon will inherit a fairly healthy animal this is howard k smith for abc news good night i have one more word for you page 103 the election is over but the story of election 68 is not after we leave our studio here our abc news staff will continue to cover the story we will interrupt our regularly scheduled programming today for any newsworthy event we will most probably be hearing from mr nixon the president-elect and from vice president humphrey his opponent stay tuned to abc for the continuing story of election 68.

END